

CLAIM LISTING

Applicants request that, pursuant to this amendment, the following listing of claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for storing electronic documents comprising the steps of:

associating at least one electronic document stored in a network storage system with an associative object represented by a digital seal, wherein the digital seal uniquely corresponds to an image of a seal, stamp, or tape that is visually displayable within a user interface;

displaying said image within said user interface;

presenting at least one multimedia object within said user interface, wherein said multimedia object is a user selectable representation for said associative object.

moving the displayed image within the user interface as said digital seal is associated with said at least one electronic document so as to visually simulate said image being affixed to said at least one electronic document;

generating an audio signal when the displayed image is moved adjacent to or over another image within the user interface representative of the at least one electronic document so as to audibly simulate said image being affixed to said at least one electronic document;

storing one or more metadata attributes for said associative object, said metadata attributes specifying one or more characteristics related to said associative object, wherein at least one of said characteristics comprises one or more authorization codes required before allowing said at least one electronic document to be retrieved, and wherein at least one of said characteristics comprises biometric fingerprint data associated with at least one user; and

responsive to said document being associated with said associative object, modifying a storage location in said network storage system of said at least one electronic

document based on at least one of said stored metadata attributes, wherein said modified storage location is at least one among a new physical storage location and a new logical storage location in said network storage system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said associative object is said digital seal.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said authorization codes is valid for a first user and invalid for a second user.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: associating a second digital seal with one of said at least one electronic document using a second associative object.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said digital seal includes a first authorization code, and wherein said second digital seal includes a second authorization code, said method further comprising the step of:
requiring said first authorization code and said second authorization code before said one of at least one electronic document can be retrieved.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
establishing a first authorization code for said digital seal, wherein said first authorization code is associated with a first image;
encoding said at least one associated electronic documents with a second authorization code associated with a second image; and,

decoding said at least one associated electronic documents using at least in part said first image.

9. – 44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein at least one appearance attribute of said digital seal is altered in response to one of said required authorization codes being received and validated.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)